

LETTER FROM MAYOR CHRIS RILEY ON COVID-19 CRISIS – 5/22/20

Dear Leon Valley Community:

At the May 19th city council meeting the council amended our local emergency declaration order as follows:

- Adopt Governor Abbott's Executive Order GA 23 Order signed on May 18, 2020 relating to the expanded opening of Texas in response to COVID-19. The Order is located at www.leonvalleytexas.gov;
- Adopt County Judge Nelson Wolff's Executive Order NW-08 signed on May 19, 2020. This order is located at www.bexar.org;
- Re-open City Hall on June 1, 2020, including city administration, city cashiers, planning and zoning;
- Limited re-opening of Municipal Court by conducting business by Zoom video conferencing only;
- City Library will remain closed. Book drop is locked and due dates and fines/fees are waived. Wifi is available outside the library during library hours. Citizens are encouraged to transition to the virtual services which are offered by logging into www.leonvalley.lib.tx.us;
- Northwest Senior Citizen activities in the Community Center continue to be closed;
- Swimming pool decision has been delayed. Staff communicated to council that the City of San Antonio has decided not to open any of its pools this summer due to COVID 19.

Council has moved the June 2, 2020 city council meeting to Thursday, June 4th after we receive Governor Abbott's next Order when the Emergency Declaration will be discussed and updated. Action will be considered on status of the swimming pools for the summer and if and when the library will move into Phase 2, which will provide curbside services. If you are unable to attend the council meeting in person on June

4th, citizens can email your comments for Citizens To Be Heard to s.pass@leonvalleytexas.gov , by 4pm on 6/4/20.

UPDATE ON COVID-19 TESTING SITES

Last week I reported that a COVID-19 testing site had been added in Leon Valley at the ReNu RX Bandera, 6428 Bandera Road, located within Health Texas Clinic. I spoke with the pharmacy manager, who reported this is a pilot program funded through the Department of Health and Human Services through the end of May, but could be extended. Persons who want to be tested who have been exposed or have symptoms, but have no insurance or are underinsured , should visit the website:

www.DoiNeedACovid19Test.com to answer a short questionnaire. If you qualify you will be scheduled an appointment Monday – Friday between the hours of 10am – 2 pm for a curbside test.

An additional testing site has been added for *Saturday, May 23, 2020* close to Leon Valley, at the Nellie Reddix Center, 4711 Sid Katz Drive in the Medical Center from 10am – 2pm. No appointment is needed and you don't have to be showing any symptoms to get tested. It is first come, first served up to 175 people total.

ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FROM OUR CITY & COUNTY

Citizens: Through generous donations, the fire department has “Blessings Boxes” to give to anyone who needs essential items which have been hard to find. Contact Chief Naughton at (210) 812-3281 for more information. Additionally, the police and fire departments have been conducting **birthday and/or celebration parades** using the police and fire vehicles (and sirens) to give honor to the celebrant. Please contact Kasey Burleson, Leon Valley Police Department at (210) 684-6557 if you would like to schedule one. This has been a very popular program to help keep our spirits up in time of COVID-19!

CPS Energy has a variety of money saving and general assistance programs designed to help all customers who are experiencing hardship during these trying times. Please call (210) 353-2222 or visit www.cpsenergy.com/assistance.

Businesses: Leon Valley Council passed the Small Business Health & Safety program to assist small businesses with disposable and cleaning supplies needed in order to open under the COVID 19 guidelines. Businesses who qualify will get a 50% reimbursement for up to \$500 spent on supplies, for a total of \$250. Additionally, if any business in the

community still needs a temporary sign to promote their business, please contact William Cox, Business Relations Specialist at (210) 812-3332 for more information on both of these programs.

Special thanks to County Commissioner Justin Rodriguez for allocating 136 Small Business Essential Bags to Leon Valley businesses, from the federal dollars received. These bags offer a one-week supply of essential items businesses need to re-open (masks, sanitizer, touchless thermometer, plexiglass). Businesses in Leon Valley must register for this free program. Essential Bag distribution is set for next week; please contact William Cox, Business Relations Specialist if you have not pre-registered. Funds were also allocated to small businesses for grants (Bexar County Micro-Business Grant program). Additionally, loans up to \$10,000 per business is available under the county's LIftFund program. There are guidelines for qualifying. All monies must be used by December 31, 2020 or be returned to the federal government. For more information on these and other programs the county offers, visit www.bexar.org or Leon Valley's ENEWS, which has these programs summarized with links.

UPDATED NUMBERS

As of May 21, 2020, the total number of cases reported in Bexar County is 2,371 (up from 2,041 as of May 14th) with 64 deaths (up from 59

deaths on May 14th). There are 41-80 cases in Leon Valley's zip code 78240 and 21-40 cases in zip code 78238.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

In today's paper, there is an urgent call for people to donate blood. The South Texas Blood and Tissue Center supply is down to a two day supply! For those who are able to donate blood, please call (210) 731-5555. If anyone in our community is in need of food, please contact Ms. Rivera at Meals on Wheels at (210) 735-5115, Ext. 1033 or the San Antonio Food Bank (210) 431-8388). San Antonio Pets Alive! is seeking people to foster and adopt dogs and cats. Also, call on your neighbors to see how they are doing. If you know of someone in our community who needs help please let me know (with their permission).

THANK YOU to all the health care workers and first Responders, who continue to put their lives on the line to treat and save other lives during this emergency. Now that the economy is beginning to re-open, Dr. Woo requested that we continue to understand the need to social distance, wash hands, wear masks and use hand sanitizer. If you are sick, stay at home to minimize exposure and get tested. Take care. Stay healthy, safe, and remain positive!

Please have a safe Memorial Day weekend. We honor the men and women who have died in conflicts to help protect our country.

Sincerely, Chris

(210) 618-2092 – Please call with any questions or concerns.